

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 32-33 are now present in this application, with new claim 33 being added by the present Preliminary Amendment. Claims 19-31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. It should be noted that the amendments to claims 6-7 of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-18 and 32-33 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37

New PCT National Phase Application
Docket No. 9694D-000014/US

C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments